

Purdue Garden Calendar

By B. Rosie Lerner
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Consumer Horticulturist

Q. We plant sweet potatoes in a raised bed the length of our garden. We have had an animal go underground and eat one-third of it. This year, some grew 10 inches long and 8 inches around. I've read that an animal—"a vole"—could be the problem. What can we do about it?

A. There are several species of voles (field mice). Voles are active day and night, year-round. Their territory is usually one-fourth acre or less but varies with season, population density, habitat, food supply and other factors. Voles construct many tunnels and surface runways with numerous burrow entrances. Voles eat crops and also damage them when they build extensive runway and tunnel systems. Runways are 1 to 2 inches wide and the vegetation may be clipped close to the ground. Feces and small pieces of vegetation are found in the runways. Other animals such as ground hogs could be the culprits, but, in the end, the strategies to reduce damage are about the same.

Good garden sanitation can

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help reduce the likelihood and severity of vole damage. Eliminate weeds, ground cover and plant litter in and around the garden. Small garden areas could be protected by placing one-fourth inch metal mesh hardware cloth cylinders around the planting. Bury the mesh at least 6 inches deep to keep voles from burrowing under the cylinder. And, finally, a good garden cat might help!

Q. I had a three-year-old Colorado spruce tree, and it did well until this past summer. The needles were eaten off gradually by something I couldn't see. I finally dug it up. I also have a pretty blue spruce that is nearly two years old. Is there anything I can spray on it to keep it healthy?

A. There are several insect pest possibilities, including but not limited to bagworms, sawflies and scale insects. Since blue spruce is a selected cultivar of Colorado spruce, they would be likely to share pests in common. But, unfortunately, it is not possible to identify the culprit without more info about symptoms and signs of feeding damage. Control recommendations, be it a "spray" or other method, can only be appropriately suggested after first identifying the cause.

Keep a close eye on the blue spruce so that if an insect or other problem should arise, you can bring in a sample to the Purdue Extension office in your county for assistance in identifying the culprit. And, in the meantime, you might read up on Purdue's publication on bagworms to see if that looks like what happened to your Colorado spruce <http://www.entm.purdue.edu/Entomology/ext/targets/e-series/Es-eriesPDF/E-27.pdf>.



From Hollywood to the flood zone

Ginger McCain of Delphi is pictured with the tubs of tennis shoes and toys sent by her daughter, Nicki McCain of California, for the Carroll County flood victims. The items were donated by Nicki, her friends, and co-workers at the Paramount Studio office. Photo provided.

Items for flood victims shipped from California

Comet staff report

The news of local flooding has spread far and wide. When Nicki McCain of

California heard about the situation, she wanted to do something to help. She is the daughter of Dan McCain and Ginger McCain of Delphi.

During the summers of her growing up years, she spent time with her grandparents, Ed and Millie Waymire, at their cottage on the Tippecanoe River.

Nicki works in the Paramount Studio office in the Los Angeles area. She put out a call to her friends and co-workers to help the Carroll County flood victims. They collected dozens of pairs of tennis shoes, toys, and other useful items, and Nicki

shipped them to her mother.

The donated items have arrived and can be picked up by flood victims at the Deacon's Closet downstairs in the Delphi Presbyterian Church. The shoes are used - designed to wear for flood clean-up.

"My time on the Tippecanoe with my family means a lot to me," Nicki said. "I hope these toys and shoes will help. My friends and co-workers wish the best to everyone in need."

Child abuse prevention group to hold forum

Child Abuse 101 - what it is and what it is not

Comet staff report

Prevent Child Abuse Carroll County will host a forum titled "Child Abuse 101" Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Stone Barn in Delphi. Dee Mazza from Prevent Child Abuse Indiana will discuss what child abuse and neglect is and is not, how to recognize signs of abuse and neglect and to whom to report suspected child abuse and neglect.

The forum is one of a series

designed by PCACC to help the Carroll County community understand the issues around child-related situations and events and how children cope with those issues and situations. The public is encouraged to attend. A question and answer period will follow the presentation.

For information contact PCACC president Julie Gainey at (765) 418-1576.

APC issues permits

Comet staff report

Fifteen permits were issued by Carroll County Area Plan Commission during December, for improvements amounting to \$2,761,692. In January, APC issued only eight permits, for improvements amounting to \$351,000.

December permits

Residential permits with \$381,000 value were issued to persons in the following townships:

- Clay - Mike and Amber Bousum, residence;
- Delphi - Michael and Lisa Perry, residence;
- Tippecanoe - Gary Graham, residence.

Permits for remodeling and accessories were issued to persons in:

- Clay - Brett Ledman, addition; James Shiery, storage;
- Deer Creek - Wesley and Leah Graybill, smokehouse;
- Delphi - James Bowyer, storage;
- Democrat - Douglas and Anne Hodson, garage with second story; Douglas and Anne Hodson, storage;
- Jackson - Shawn Ashby, storage;
- Jefferson - Michael Collins, pole barn; Randall William Wood, sunroom;

Liberty - Paul and Terri Marcellino, storage;

Rock Creek - Colleen Appleton, storage; Philip Ehst, storage;

Washington - Alan Dillman, addition.

Commercial Permits

- North Central Health Services, office building;
- Security Federal Savings Bank, bank building.

The total collected from permits issued was \$1,670, plus:

- Marion Huffer, CFO Pre-Application Permit, \$25;

Total collected from permits in December was \$1,695. Total collected to date is \$16,230.

January permits

Residential permits with \$284,000 value were issued to persons in the following townships:

- Jefferson - Gerald Hanna, residence; Thomas Timmons, residence;

- Tippecanoe - Nicholas Jenkins, residence.

Permits for remodeling and accessories were issued to persons in:

- Burlington - Allen and Kathryn Stout, storage;
- Clay - Byron Miller, storage;

- Jefferson - Frank and Jocelyn Miller, addition; Elva Randle, lean-to;

- Monroe - Paul Fife, sun-room.

The total collected from permits issued was \$351, plus:

- John Filbrun, CAFO Pre-Application Permit, \$25;
- Harry Jones, CAFO Pre-Application Permit, \$25;
- William Parr, application for residence building permit, \$150.

Total collected from permits in January was \$351. Total collected to date is \$351.

Valentine

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<p>Red or Green Seedless Grapes</p> <p>1⁴⁹ lb</p>	<p>56 oz. etc., Selected Varieties Prairie Farms Old Recipe Ice Cream</p> <p>2/5</p>
<p>12 double or 24 single roll pkg. Angel Soft Bath Tissue or 6-8 roll pkg. Selected Varieties</p> <p>2/11</p>	<p>59.1-64 oz. etc., Selected Varieties Tropicana Orange Juice</p> <p>2/5</p>

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<p>28-36 ct. Jumbo Pack, Selected Varieties Pampers Baby Dry Diapers</p> <p>9⁹⁹</p>	<p>89 ct. tub, Selected Varieties Baby Basics Soft Baby Wipes</p> <p>2/4</p>
<p>15 oz. bottle, Selected Varieties HomeBest Baby Toiletries</p> <p>3/4⁹⁸</p>	<p>218-261 ct. pkg., Selected Varieties Pampers Wipes Refill</p> <p>6⁴⁹</p>

Photo policy

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